Survival of Marine creatures

*195. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Marine creatures is slowly declining due to increasing salinity of water;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sea is not getting its due share of fresh water from its rivers, which helped to maintain the salinity at certain level for the survival of Marine creatures, and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the survival of Marine creatures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No Sir. As per the available information, there is no conclusive evidence regarding decline in number of marine creatures due to change in the level of salinity of water or flow of river water into the sea. Government has taken several steps for the protection of marine organisms like enactment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, establishment of marine National Parks, regulation of Coastal Zone and Biosphere Reserves.

Air pollution in Nagpur

*196. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that air pollution has considerably increased in and around Nagpur city;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out average pollution level in other major cities of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control air pollution level in and around Nagpur?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Ambient air quality monitoring has been carried out in some of the major cities of Maharashtra,